

It is estimated that in the United States, over 2,000 puppies and over 3,500 kittens are born every hour, compared with 485 human beings. As a result, between 4 and 5 million dogs and cats have to be humanely destroyed each year for lack of good homes. These innocent animals only need a safe, loving home in order to stay alive.

So come adopt a pet today, but please remember that adoption is a very important decision, and it can affect the animal's life!



Kids with Pets

If you are expecting a baby and you already have a pet, it is important that the pet adjusts to the new baby. Gradually decrease the amount of time you spend with your pet, so that they will not be stressed when the baby arrives. It is also helpful to get the pet accustomed to the new smells and noises of a newborn baby. Many experts recommend that a child be at least 6 years of age before a pet is brought into the family. But it all depends on the child's maturity. The child should exhibit self-control and understand the word "no". Also make sure the child understands that he or she should treat the animal with caution and respect. It is critical that an adult supervise all pet-child interactions.

City of Plano Animal Services
4028 W. Plano Parkway
Plano, TX 75093
972-769-4360
www.planoanimalshelter.org

Adoption Center Hours
Tuesday-Friday 9 am – 6 pm
Saturday-Sunday 10 am – 4 pm
Closed on Monday

THINK BEFORE YOU ADOPT



By Katy for her
Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Things to Consider

- 1) Why do you want a pet?
- 2) Do you have time for a pet?
- 3) Are you willing to meet all the pet's needs?
- 4) Can you afford a pet?
- 5) Who will take care of your pet if you travel?
- 6) Can you have a pet where you live?
- 7) Are you willing to have pet fur in your house?
- 8) Does everyone in your household, including your current pets, want to have a pet?
- 9) Are you willing to train the pet and be patient as it may take some time?
- 10) Do you have young kids or babies that may not respond well to pets?
- 11) Are you prepared to keep and take care of the pet for his or her entire lifetime?

Cost of Owning a Pet:

- 1) Adoption fees
- 2) Veterinary care
- 3) Spaying and neutering
- 4) Grooming
- 5) Toys
- 6) Food
- 7) Bowls for food & water
- 8) Collars
- 9) Leashes
- 10) Kitty litter
- 11) Training classes
- 12) Licenses

Owning a pet may cost a lot; however, spending time with an animal companion can bring incredible rewards!

Adopt an Adult Dog or Cat!

Adult animals are less fragile and are better able to ward off potential health problems. Likewise, they are usually vaccinated and their health is an identified factor. Adult animals are often calmer and less destructive, and many are house-trained. Also, it is often easier to teach adult animals how to do tricks, and many adult animals already know a few tricks. Older animals can make great pets, so please consider adopting one today!

Which type of CAT is right for you?

Cats make fantastic pets because they're less demanding and they can adjust easily to a variety of lifestyles. Kittens are more curious, playful, and full of energy, while adult cats are more relaxed and less mischievous. Long-haired cats require frequent grooming and shed more fur. Short-haired cats also require brushing, but less frequently. Unlike dogs, cats do not need to be walked, but some cats love to play more than others. So choose a cat that you will have time to take care of.

Which type of DOG is right for you?

Dogs can be great pets, but it is important to adopt the right dog for you.

Dogs are broken up into two categories: purebreds and mixed breeds. It is easy to predict how most purebred dogs will act and what they will look like when they grow up. Mixed breeds have a combination of traits from many breeds; they are a totally unique companion.

Your activity level can affect which kind of dog you adopt. Puppies or young dogs usually require more training and supervision than more mature dogs. Also, certain types of dogs love to exercise, while some are great lap dogs.

It is also important to take in consideration the amount of space available for the dog. If you live in an apartment, it would be best to adopt a smaller dog. But if you have a large house and backyard, a larger dog that loves to exercise can easily adapt to the large space.

Female dogs are typically easier to train, and tend to be calmer pets. Male dogs may challenge humans for their boundaries because they want to dominate.